<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1, 9, 14, 16, and 19 being independent. Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for indicating that claims 9-15 and 17-21 are allowed.

<u>Claims 1-3, 5, and 16</u>

Claims 1-3, 5, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Krellenstein (U.S. 5,924,090). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 16 recite a method (claim 1) and a computer program (claim 16) for searching different data stores based on a classification of a search term that includes, among other features, receiving at least one search term and <u>classifying the search term</u> among at least first and second categories. <u>The classification of the search term is used to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search</u>, where a first electronic information store contains first electronic information associated with at least a first category and a second electronic information store contains second electronic information associated with at least a second category.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Krellenstein fails to describe or suggest classifying the search term and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search. Rather, Krellenstein discloses a method for presenting the <u>results of a search</u>, but does not disclose aspects of actually performing a search. Krellenstein describes a system and method for <u>categorizing search results</u>.

> "In response to a search instruction from a user, the database is searched and a search result list which includes a selected set of the records is generated. A portion of the search result list is processed to dynamically create a set of search result categories." <u>See</u> Krellenstein, col. 3, lines 1-5.

Krellenstein does not describe classifying the received search term among at least first and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in claims 1 and 16.

The Office Action alleges that Krellenstein (col. 9, line 56 to col. 10, line 11) discloses using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores. However, when read in its context (see below), it is clear that the relied upon section does not describe or suggest using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores. Instead, this section describes how to classify each record within the database. Each record in the database is classified to enable the later categorization of the search results.

> "For the categorization methodology to work, each record within the database, including Internet records and premium content records, is classified by subject, type, source, and language characteristics (i.e., meta-data attributes)." See Krellenstein, col. 8, lines 56-59.

To classify each record in the database, Krellenstein describes a classification system to determine the meta-data attributes for each record.

> "A classification system has been developed for automatically determining the four data attributes (i.e., subject, type, language and source) when such attributes are not editorially available from the publisher or record source. The classification system includes two main components: (1) a query-based classification program; and (2) [a] set of individual programs." See Krellenstein, col. 9, lines 33-39.

Thus, the query-based classification program described in Krellenstein is used to automatically determine the meta-data attributes of the data records and is not used to classify the received search term among at least first and second categories and then use the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in claims 1 and 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1 and 16, and their respective dependent claims 2, 3, and 5.

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Claims 4, 6, and 15

Claims 4, 6, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krellenstein in view of Russell-Falla et al. (U.S. 6,266,664). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. With respect to claim 15, which depends from allowed independent claim 14, the Office Action indicates on the Office Action Summary form and on page 7 that claim 15 is allowable. Applicants are assuming that the rejection of claim 15 was mistaken and that claim 15 stands allowed as indicated.

Claims 4 and 6 depend from independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Krellenstein and Russell-Falla, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest the features discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. As noted above, Krellenstein fails to describe or suggest classifying the received search term among at least first and second categories and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in claim 1. Russell-Falla fails to remedy the Krellenstein shortcomings and, notably, is not relied upon in the Office Action to support the rejection of these features.

For at least these reasons and based on the dependency of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 4 and 6.

Claims 7 and 8

Claims 7 and 8, which depend from independent claim 1, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krellenstein in view of Sundaresan (U.S. 6,606,620). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Krellenstein and Sundaresan, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest the features discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. As noted above, Krellenstein fails to describe or suggest classifying the received search term among at least first and second categories and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, as recited in
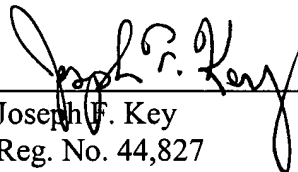
claim 1. Sundaresan fails to remedy the Krellenstein shortcomings and, notably, is not relied upon in the Office Action to support the rejection of these features.

For at least these reasons and based on the dependency of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection § 103(a) of claims 7 and 8.

No fees are believed to be due. However, during prosecution of this application, please apply any deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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